

February 12, 1976

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Simpson.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Mr. President, I could take the bill. I'm not sure that we could finish it this morning. It is rather comprehensive. The intent, under this bill, is to move the appointment of vocational rehabilitation from the Department of Education or agency of education to the Department of Public Welfare. This bill is now in accordance with the budget put in by the Governor in that he is physically moving the money from one agency to the other in his appropriation bill. We have a lot of background on this that ... of why it might ... should be in that Department. We've checked with other states to see how it's done. We've checked with HEW in Kansas City to make sure that there's no problems because this does involve a lot of federal funds. Feeling primarily is that the intent on this is that people, a good share of them, are welfare clients and probably could be served cheaper by having both portions, the aid plus training available within one agency. With that I would move we'd advance 597 to E & R for review.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I too want to take my name off this bill. I think it would be a mistake to make this change. I think Senator Simpson gave a very good reason why. We have a good many people that require the services, have required these services, and they are not on welfare. I think there's at least a feeling among a lot of people that have had these services and have used them in the past, there will be others in the future. They would rather not have the stigma of having it in the Welfare Department.

I think I would have to be fair with Senator Simpson and the ones that are pushing for this change. It is my understanding that it would be somewhat of a paper transaction because they do intend to transfer the entire staff, the whole Department, from one institution to the other. I still think that it would be a mistake to change it. I think before you vote on it you should really give it some serious thought. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Shirley Marsh.

CLERK: Pending is a request to delete his name.

PRESIDENT: Oh, excuse me, Senator Marsh. Is there an objection to this request? Seeing none, it's so ordered. Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I request this be sent back to Committee for a public hearing, which it has not had.

PRESIDENT: Is that in the form of a motion?

SENATOR MARSH: Yes sir.